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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 846

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the Reverend D. G. Gray, Sr. of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of the Reverend D. G. Gray; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary servant of the Lord and consummate professional, D. G. Gray worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Gray was a devout pastor of the New Sardis Missionary Baptist Church where, for 31 years, he unfailingly earned the respect of his fellow Christians for the exemplary quality of his work and his dedicated service to God and humanity; and

WHEREAS, he was born in Germantown on September 19, 1921, the oldest child of the late Dude Gray and Ardena Davis-Gray-Stiger; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Gray accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Germantown, under the leadership of the late Reverend Bud Rodger; and

WHEREAS, he served his country with honor and distinction as a Chaplain in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Gray was blessed to pastor numerous churches throughout his long and distinguished life, including the Campbell Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and the Old Bethel Baptist Church, both in Bolivar, the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Salem, and the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church in Holly Springs, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend D. G. Gray was also deeply devoted to his family, and he endeavored to always remain true to family values of the highest order; for 53 glorious years, he enjoyed the love and support of his faithful wife, the late Lillian Bernice Douglas-Gray, described by others as a spirit-filled woman who epitomized class; and

WHEREAS, the Grays' were blessed with ten children, including their five sons, Daniel L. Gray, the Reverend D. G. Gray, Jr., the Reverend John R. Gray, Michael S. Gray, and the Reverend Robert B. Gray; and their five daughters, Virginia Ruth Jean Gray-Malone, Mary B. Gray-Hampton, Carolyn D. Gray, Judy G. Gray, and Sharon L. Gray-Corum; and

WHEREAS, he will also be dearly missed by his brother, William H. Stiger; his two sisters, Irene Stiger and Gloria Dean Stiger; his twenty-three grandchildren, his ten great-grandchildren, his five sisters-in law, his two brothers-in-law, and his nieces, nephews, cousins, his many adopted children, and friends; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife and parents, the Reverend Gray was preceded in death by a brother, James Allen Gray, and two sisters, Sallie Mae Gray-Cleveland and Ida Lee Gray; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend D. G. Gray leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of the Reverend D. G. Gray, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his meritorious service as Pastor of the New Sardis Missionary Baptist Church, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage, conviction and compassion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the Reverend Gray's family, his friends, and the entire New Sardis Missionary Baptist Church congregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.